

Abstract of the Disclosure

Various embodiments are described to address the need to lower
5 backhaul costs for EGPRS operators while maintaining the low and constant
delay characteristics they require. 20 msec TRAU frames (221-226) are still
used for backhaul to maintain the low and constant delay. However, to
eliminate the restriction of mapping TRAU timeslots to air timeslots (211-218)
one-to-one, the TRAU slots are collectively treated as a one large 20 msec
10 TRAU frame for a group of air timeslots. The data for the air timeslots can be
packed efficiently into this giant TRAU frame, ignoring backhaul timeslot
boundaries. In this way, the appropriate amount of backhaul for the carrier
can be allocated and the data for the air interface timeslots more efficiently
packed into the backhaul.